

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133922

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-12 DEAE-00 /026 R

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USIA/ICS:JECOU

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R 241705Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DAMASCUS FROM SECSTATE DATED JUNE 21,
1974 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652:ADS, DECON 8/31/74

TAGS: OEXC; SY

SUBJECT: CU/CP-DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR-FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY BAND

REF: DAMASCUS 1106; 1117

1. DEPARTMENT NOW ANTICIPATES THAT USAF AIRCRAFT WILL BE
AVAILABLE FOR SYRIAN VISIT BY FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
BAND (MAXIMUM 150 PEOPLE). CURRENT US DEPARTURE FOR BAND
IS AUGUST 11 WITH RETURN ON AUGUST 23 BY USAF AIRCRAFT.
ASSUME SYRIANS WILL PAY ROOM, BOARD, LOCAL TRAVEL FOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 133922

ENTIRE STAY, INCLUDING CONCERTS OUTSIDE DAMASCUS. ADVISE.

2. GROUP SHOULD BE BILLED AS FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BAND, NOT MARCHING CHIEFS.

3. BAND DIRECTOR RICHARD MAYO CONCURS TWO DAILY PERFORMANCES. MARCHING SHOW IN FOOTBALL STADIUM WILL LAST MAXIMUM 30 MINUTES AND, AS EMBASSY PROPOSES, SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN EARLY EVENING (7:30 PM) DUE PHYSICAL EXERTION INVOLVED IN HOT CLIMATE. FOOTBALL FIELD MUST BE LINED IDENTICAL TO AMERICAN FOOTBALL FIELD. DIRECTOR WILL FURNISH DIAGRAM ASAP.

4. FOR STADIUM PERFORMANCES, ARABIC NARRATOR MUST BE PROVIDED BY EMB OR FAIR TO BRIEFLY EXPLAIN EACH FORMATION.

SCRIPT WILL BE FORWARDED IN ADVANCE. EXPLANATION OF FORMATION USUALLY RUNS ONLY ONE OR TWO SENTENCES. NARRATOR SHOULD USE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM; I.E., SINGLE MICROPHONE LOCATED ANYWHERE IN STADIUM WHERE ANNOUNCER WILL HAVE CLEAR VIEW OF ACTION ON FIELD.

5. MAYO WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ADVICE ON WHAT TYPES MARCHING SHOWS MIGHT BE BEST RECEIVED BY TRADE FAIR AUDIENCES. SOME PAST THEMES (EACH A SEPARATE SHOW) HAVE INCLUDED DISNEYWORLD; BROADWAY MUSIC AND "BACH, ROCK AND ALL THAT JAZZ" (A MEDLEY OF SHOW TUNES, ROCK, MARCHES, AND CLASSICAL MUSIC).

6. FOR STADIUM PERFORMANCES, BAND ALSO WILL DO VARIOUS GEOMETRIC PATTERNS IN THEIR FORMATIONS AND FIGURES SUCH AS LAMP OF LEARNING, FIGURE OF HORSE, ETC. BAND IS WILLING TRY TO LEARN FORMATIONS DEPICTING IN ARABIC ANY APPROPRIATE ARABIC SYMBOLS OR LETTERS FOR THE WORDS "LOVE," "PEACE" OR ANY ARABIC SYMBOL YOU RECOMMEND. FYI: BAND INCLUDES TWIRLER AND MAJORETTES. END FYI.

7. IF APPROPRIATE TO USE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF US AND SYRIA, CAN EMB PROVIDE BAND SCORE OF SYRIAN ANTHEM? IF NOT, SHEET MUSIC WITH MELODY AND HARMONY AND A RECORDING SHOULD BE SENT SOONEST.

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PAGE 03 STATE 133922

8. EVENING THEATRE CONCERTS BY JAZZ ENSEMBLE (25 PEOPLE) OR WIND ENSEMBLE (45-50) CAN LAST ONE TO ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS. HOWEVER, SINCE PERSONNEL IN THESE ENSEMBLES OVERLAP, YOU SHOULD NOT SCHEDULE SIMULTANEOUS CONCERTS IN TWO DIFFERENT THEATRES. JAZZ ENSEMBLE CAN PERFORM AFTER STADIUM SHOW ONE NIGHT AND WIND ENSEMBLE THE NEXT NIGHT (OR WHATEVER ORDER YOU WANT) BUT NOT BOTH ENSEMBLES ON

SAME NIGHT. FYI: JAZZ GROUP INCLUDES RAGTIME BAND.
ANOTHER POTENTIAL SEPARATE ENSEMBLE IS A PERCUSSION SECTION. END FYI.

9. AFTER STADIUM PERFORMANCE, FAIR'S THEATRE PREFERRED BY BAND TO SIMPLIFY LOGISTICS. CONCUR INVITATIONAL CONCERT AT AZEM PALACE AND CONCERTS OUTSIDE DAMASCUS, SUCH AS BOSRA. ASSUME ANY OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATRES TO BE USED FOR CONCERTS HAVE BEEN USED BY OTHER MUSICAL GROUPS AND THAT ACCOUSTICS NOT A PROBLEM.

10. FOR CONCERT PERFORMANCES BY WIND ENSEMBLE, WILL NEED THREE SETS OF RISERS. DEPARTMENT WILL ADVISE YOU OF MEASUREMENTS FOR LOCAL CONSTRUCTION AS WELL MORE DETAILS OF STAGING REQUIREMENTS ASAP.

11. MAYO WISHES KNOW ELECTRIC VOLTAGE AND CYCLES FOR EACH ANTICIPATED PERFORMANCE SITE. ARE TRANSFORMERS AVAILABLE LOCALLY FOR AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT?

12. RADIO/TELEVISION: YOU MAY ADVISE SYRIAN BROADCAST OFFICIALS THAT BAND PREFERS TAPING RADIO/TV BROADCASTS SEPARATE FROM LIVE PERFORMANCES TO ENSURE BETTER MUSICAL QUALITY. MAYO WILLING DO TAPING DURING DAYTIME.

13. ADVISE NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO BE HOUSED PER ROOM SO BAND CAN PREPARE ROOMING LIST. ASSUME SOME SINGLES WILL BE AVAILABLE. UNIFORMS WILL NEED TO BE DRY CLEANED PERIODICALLY DURING VISIT.

14. USIA/ICS DEVELOPING PUBLICITY MATERIALS. RECORDS AND TAPES FORWARDED VOA FOR PREPARATION OF DUPLICATE SET WHICH WILL BE SENT EMBASSY ASAP.
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PAGE 04 STATE 133922

15. HOPE PROVIDE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT MANIFESTS BY LATE JULY. BAND CURRENTLY IS SCATTERED ON VACATION MAKING TASK MORE DIFFICULT. WILL MASS IMMIGRATION CLEARANCE BE HANDLED AT EMBASSY END? ARE PHOTOS OR FORMS REQUIRED, OR JUST PASSPORT DATA?

16. PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT SUBJECT SEPTTEL.

17. DEPARTURE DATE FROM US NOTED PARA ONE IS TENTATIVE. WE CURRENTLY PLANNING BAND DEPART US ON AUGUST 10 OR 11, BUT EXACT DATE MUST AWAIT ARRANGEMENTS WITH USAF. KISSINGER

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